This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for establishing e-mail communication between ~~two~~ ~~users/devices~~ a sender device and a receiver device who/which both have access to the Public Switched Telephone Network, without the need of being connected to the Internet, comprising the steps of:

A) establishing ~~the~~ a data link, and ~~PPP~~ point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver ~~application~~ devices; and

B) transferring ~~the~~ one or more e-mail message(s) from the sender device to the receiver device over TCP/IP.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

C) composing one or more electronic mail messages on the sender device through a ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface (GUI) application;

D) setting up a telephone connection from the sender device to the receiver device;

E) acceptance of the call by the receiver device;

F) storage of the e-mail message(s) on the receiver device;

G) termination of the data link and telephone connection;

H) perceptible ~~(e.g. visual and/or audible)~~ indication that an e-mail message has been received by the receiver ~~application~~ device; and

I) visual presentation of the e-mail message, ~~(including attached files)~~, by a ~~the receiver~~ ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface (GUI) application on the receiver device.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

J)   retrieving the telephone number of the receiver from a database.

4. – 8.   (Cancelled)

DCLERC-0003

9.   (Currently Amended) Method of establishing communication according to claim 1 from a central host <u>device</u> to <u>sender and receiver</u> devices at remote locations, all with access to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), in order to collect information from meters, comprising the steps of:

    a) setting up a telephone connection from the central host <u>device</u> to the ~~device~~ <u>sender and receiver devices</u> at the remote location;

    b) acceptance of the call by the receiver device;

    c) establishing the data link, and ~~PPP~~ <u>point-to-point (PPP)</u> connection between the sender and receiver ~~application~~ <u>devices</u>;

    d) transfer <u>of</u> the information to the host device over TCP/IP;

    e) ~~Termination~~ <u>termination</u> of the data link and telephone call;

    f) updating of the database by the host <u>device</u> with the received information.

10.   (Currently Amended) Method of establishing communication according to claim 1 to a central host <u>device</u> by <u>sender and receiver</u> devices at remote locations, all with access to the Public Switched Telephone NetWork (PSTN), in order to transfer information from meters to the central host, comprising the steps of:

    a) setting up a telephone connection to the central host <u>device</u> by the device at the remote location;

    b) acceptance of the call by the host device;

    c) establishing the data link, and ~~PPP~~ <u>point-to-point (PPP)</u> connection between the sender and receiver ~~application~~ <u>devices</u>;

    d) transfer <u>of</u> the information to the host device over TCP/IP;

    e) termination of the data link and telephone call;

    f) updating of the database by the host <u>device</u> with the received information.

11.   (Currently Amended) Stand-alone apparatus to be installed at the remote location which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 9, both as receiver and sender <u>device</u>.

DCLERC-0003

12. **(Currently Amended)** Host apparatus to be installed at the ~~central~~ site <u>of the central host device</u> which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 9, both as receiver and sender <u>device</u>.

13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Currently Amended)** Method ~~according to claim 1~~ of providing ~~home automation~~ <u>automated</u> network functionality <u>of an in-house main network</u> as a TeleMail-based application, comprising the steps of:

a) connecting a System Control Unit to ~~the~~ <u>a</u> TeleMail device, and to the in-house ~~mains~~ <u>main</u> network<u>, which TeleMail device is capable of performing the steps of the receiver device in claim 1</u>;

b) inserting Appliance Control Units between the controlled appliances, and to the in-house ~~mains~~ <u>main</u> network;

c) installation and configuration of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> TeleControl application on the TeleMail device;

d) invocation of the TeleControl Graphical User Interface <u>(GUI)</u> program;

e) activation of controls in the Graphical User Interface <u>(GUI)</u>, which are directly related to an addressable appliance;

f) invocation of a Common Gateway Interface (GCI) process on the TeleMail device, to transfer an instruction to the addressed appliance through System Control Unit, and the mains network, to the Appliance Control Unit;

g) reception and evaluation of the instruction by the Appliance Control Unit<u>, which instructions are sent by a sender to the TeleMail device using a method of claim 1</u>;

h) execution of the instruction by the Appliance Control Unit;

i) closing of the TeleControl Graphical User Interface program~~;~~<u>.</u>

DCLERC-0003

15. **(Currently Amended)** Method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 14 further comprising ~~of~~ automating the control over Appliances <u>at a receiver device location</u> addressed by ~~the~~ <u>a</u> TeleControl application, and connected to ~~the mains~~ <u>an in-house main</u> network by means of a Scheduler as integrated function of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> Graphical User Interface <u>(GUI)</u> application, comprising ⌐ the steps of:

    a) invocation of the TeleControl Graphical User Interface program;

    b) activation of the Scheduler control in the TeleControl Graphical User Interface program;

    c) invocation and presentation of the Scheduler Graphical User Interface;

    d) configuration of the Scheduler;

    e) scheduling of actions at user-definable moments, and at user-definable fixed or irregular intervals;

    f) closing of the Scheduler Graphical User Interface;

    g) closing of the TeleControl Graphical User Interface program;

    h) independent background execution of the scheduled actions by the Scheduler function ~~, as described in steps F) through H) of claim 1~~.

16. **(Currently Amended)** Stand-alone or TeleMail-integrated System Control Unit to be connected to the TeleMail device, and to the ~~mains~~ <u>main</u> network, which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 14.

17. **(Currently Amended)** Stand-alone or appliance-integrated Appliance Control Unit to be connected to the addressed appliance, and to the ~~mains~~ <u>main</u> network, which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 14.

18. **(Previously presented)** Method according to claim 14 comprising a unique System Control Unit identifier, and an assignable Appliance Control Unit identifier to uniquely qualify a home automation network, and the member Appliance Control Units connected to it.

DCLERC-0003

19. (Cancelled)

20. **(New)** An apparatus for performing the method of claim 1, which apparatus is connected to a computer through an interface and which is independently able to perform the steps, both as receiver and sender device, of:

    A) establishing a data link, and point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver devices; and

    B) transferring one or more e-mail message(s) from the sender device to the receiver device over TCP/IP;

    D) setting up a telephone connection from the sender device to the receiver device;

    E) acceptance of the call by the receiver device;

    F) storage of the e-mail message(s) on the receiver device; and

    G) termination of the data link and telephone connection.

21. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the interface is a RS-232 interface.

22. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 20, which if further able to perform the steps of:

    C) composing one or more electronic mail messages on the sender device through a graphical user interface (GUI) application;

    I) visual presentation of the e-mail message, including attached files, by a graphical user interface (GUI) application on the receiver device; and

    J) retrieving the telephone number of the receiver from a database.

23. **(New)** Stand-alone apparatus to be installed at the remote location which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 10, both as receiver and sender device.

24. **(New)** Host apparatus to be installed at the site of the central host device which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 9, both as receiver and sender device.

DCLERC-0003